(c) at present there is no proposal to build additional car garages.

Government accommodation under general pool scheme

224. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to discontinue the provision of Government accommodation for its employees under the general pool scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government salaries are not aligned towards the high private residential real estate rentals;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review the proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) At present no such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) The salaries to the Central Government employees are fixed as per the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission which have been accepted. Only recently *vide* O.M. No. 05/1/2004-IC dated 1.3.2004, on the recommendations of the Fifth CPC, Dearness allowance equal to 50% of the existing pay has been merged with the basic pay *w.e.f.* 1.4.2004 and shown distinctly as Dearness Pay which would be counted for payment of various allowances, including House Rent allowance. This has the effect of increasing HRA of the Central Government Employees by 50% *w.e.f.* 1.4.2004.

Chargesheet in watch and ward staff scam in DDA

225. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vigilance Department of the Delhi Development Authority has chargesheeted more than 50 officials of DDA in the multi-crore watch and ward staff scam of 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any punishment has been awarded so far to the chargesheeted officials;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no termination of service has been done in any case; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that they have chargesheeted 56 DDA officials in cases of alleged irregularities in watch and ward payments. 28 officials have been served chargesheets for major penalty and 28 officials have been served chargesheets for minor penalty.

(c) Minor penalty has been imposed on 22 chargesheeted officials of DDA.

(d) and (e) No penalty of termination of service has been imposed, so far, Penalties imposed in a particular case are dependent upon the findings of the Inquiry Officer and the decision of the Disciplinary Authority.

Bangalore Metro Rail Project

226. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore Metro Rail Project has been approved by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the above project;

(c) what is Government's financial commitment for this project;

(d) the present status of the proposed project; and

(e) by when it is likely to take off?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared for the Bangalore Metro Rail Project the estimated cost of the project at April, 2003 prices is Rs. 3970 crore. Only the 'in principle' approval of the Planning Commission has been received. The financing plan and the schedule of construction of the project is dependent on the final approvals.